The Central Government has in the last three years significantly enhanced the budgetary allocations to State Governments as part of its commitment towards universalisation of elementary education.

Amendments in MMDR Act

†*292. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to make amendment in the schedule of Mines and Minerals Development and Regulation Act (MMDR Act), 1957 on the basis of recommendations made by Hoda Committee;

(b) whether this will not encourage the monopolistic tendencies; and

(c) whether this will not affect the system of taking decision by the State Governments on their own and their autonomy?

THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI SIS RAM OLA): (a) to (c) New Mineral Policy on the subject is under consideration .of the Government. State Governments are the owners of the minerals and grant mineral concessions. Prior approval of the Central Government is required only for grant of mineral concessions in respect of minerals mentioned in the First Schedule of the MMDR Act, 1957.

Setting up of additional IISERs

*293. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR RUPANI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to set up more Indian Institutes of Science Educatioaand Research (USER) in addition to Pune and Kolkata;

(b) the number of IISERs proposed to be set up in the Eleventh Five Year Plan;

(c) by when these new IISERs will be set up and commence their activities;

(d) whether Government plan to set up and USER in Gujarat soon;

(e) if so, the details in this regard; and

(f) the criteria for setting up an USER in the country?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.